

## **Pediatric Cardiology Fellowship Technical Standards for Trainees**

The following sections are based on the McGaw Institutional Technical Standards for GME Trainees (approved by the McGaw GMEC 9/2016) with the addition of data specific to the Pediatric Cardiology Fellowship Program at Lurie Children's Hospital. Although there are generic portions to this document, the term "trainees" refers to cardiology fellows.

### Overview

Graduate Medical Education (GME) training is an essential dimension of the transformation of the medical student to the independent practitioner along the continuum of medical education. It is physically, emotionally, and intellectually demanding, and requires longitudinally-concentrated effort on the part of the trainee.

The specialty education of physicians to practice independently is experiential, and necessarily occurs within the context of the health care delivery system. Developing the skills, knowledge, and attitudes leading to proficiency in all the domains of clinical competency. For the trainee, the essential learning activity is interaction with patients under the guidance and supervision of attending physician who give value, context, and meaning to those interactions. As trainees gain experience and demonstrate growth in their clinical competency, they assume roles that permit them to exercise those skills with greater independence. This concept, graded and progressive responsibility, is one of the core tenets of American graduate medical education. Supervision in the setting of graduate medical education has the goals of assuring the provision of safe and effective care to the individual patient; assuring each trainee's development of the skills, knowledge, and attitudes required to enter the unsupervised practice of medicine; and establishing a foundation for continued professional growth.

From an institutional standpoint, GME Trainees (Trainees) include all Residents and Fellows participating in graduate medical education at the McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University. This includes those programs not accredited by the ACGME (i.e. "non-standard programs").

### Prerequisites

- Trainees must conform to any and all requirements documented in their training contract.
- All trainees must have passed Step II of the USMLE
- Fellows must have passed Step III of the USMLE
- Trainees must maintain a valid medical license in the State of Illinois. Fellows must maintain a permanent license.
- Trainees without permanent US residency must maintain a valid visa as approved by the GME Office as well as ECFMG certification.
- Trainees must have completed all prerequisite training as outlined in the program specific requirements. For Cardiology Fellows, this requires completion of an accredited Pediatric or Medicine/Pediatric residency.

## Professionalism

- Trainees must be familiar with and comply with McGaw Medical Center (McGaw) policies and procedures, as well as those additional policies and procedures specific to the Cardiology Fellowship program.
- Trainees must be familiar with and comply with any hospital specific policies and procedures while on rotations at those training sites.
- Trainees must comply with all documentation and educational requirements of the ACGME, McGaw, or any hospital at which they are training in a timely fashion.
- Trainees must exhibit a high degree of professionalism when communicating and interacting with all members of the medical community and patients.
- Trainees must exhibit a high degree of professionalism when documenting or utilizing the electronic medical record (EMR).
- Trainees must comply with the Safe and Healthy Learning policy of McGaw.
- Trainees must honestly and accurately track, document, and report duty hours worked.
- Trainees must report any variance from ACGME or program duty hour limits to the Program Director and if recurrent then to the DIO / Associate Dean of GME.
- Trainees must report any problems with fatigue, illness, or any other impairments that could affect their ability to perform their duties to the Program Director in a timely fashion.
- Trainees must refrain from all illicit or illegal drug use.

## Clinical Duties

- Trainees will participate in training activities following a rotation schedule as assigned by the program.
  - A basic outline of the rotation schedule is included as Appendix A.
  - The rotation schedule is clinically heavy for the first 18 months.
- Trainees will demonstrate an increasing degree of autonomy and independence as defined by the program.
  - The cardiology supervision policy is included as Appendix B.
- Trainees will carry a standard patient case load as assigned by the program.
  - The patient load varies between different services (Consult service, CICU service, EP service, HF/Transplant Service) and patient volume.
- Trainees will take night call on a schedule as assigned by the program.
  - All Cardiology fellow call is in-house.
  - Random CICU calls are assigned over the course of the year.
  - A night-float system is utilized to cover the general cardiology inpatient service and hospital consults.
  - The total number of calls per year is ~60 (which is a combination of night float and CICU call).
  - The night float call is a 12-14 hour shift. The CICU call generally follows a complete day of work and encompasses a 24 hour shift.
  - Supervision on call is available in multiple forms (24 hour in-house CICU attending, Ward/Consult attending available by phone, several subspecialty attendings available by phone).
- Trainees will supervise and participate in the education of other trainees and / or medical students as assigned by the program.

- Cardiology fellows participate in the cardiology resident educational curriculum, as well as through direct clinical teaching during interactions on the ward, with consults and in outpatient clinics.
- Cardiology fellows also have the opportunity to participate in the education of rotating medical students from Feinberg and other schools.
- Trainees will supervise other trainees as assigned by the program.
  - Typically, senior cardiology fellows will assist junior fellows in a mentor/colleague status, as there are no rotations where a senior fellow has direct supervision of a junior fellow.
- Trainees must perform skills (medical, surgical, procedural, and other) as defined by their program with progressive competence and independence appropriate to their training level (ability to perform skillfully, safely, independently, and with the appropriate indication) as defined by the program.
  - There are several skill sets specific to cardiology, each with a goal level of competence.
  - Specific competence in each domain is defined in the individual rotation Goals and Expectations.
  - Several rotations require a certain level of physical prowess.
    - Electrophysiology
      - Fellows should have the ability to participate in intra-cardiac electrophysiology studies, requiring trainees to wear full interventional lead protection and often stand for several hours at a time.
    - Cardiac Catheterization
      - Fellows should have the ability to participate in cardiac catheterization procedures, requiring trainees to wear full interventional lead protection and not uncommonly stand for a minimum of 90-120 minutes, but sometimes up to 4-6 hours.
    - Echocardiography
      - Fellows should have the ability to perform a complete echocardiographic scan for patients in the echocardiographic laboratory, as well as the ability to transport an echocardiogram machine to floors throughout the hospital and perform bedside studies.
    - CICU
      - Fellows should have the ability to respond promptly to code situations and perform all aspects of PALS/ACLS.

### Other Education

- Trainees will actively participate in the program specific didactic curriculum as assigned by the program.
  - The fellowship has a robust curriculum with protected lectures/sessions.
- Trainees will engage in adult independent learning while off site, which may include some nights and weekends to augment the program's didactic curriculum including reading and preparation of presentations.
  - Specific resources are available on the Cardiology drive.

- Trainees will participate in any self-evaluative processes including “in-service examinations” or simulation exercises.
- Trainees will participate in any remediation process as assigned by the program under McGaw disciplinary action policies.

For more information on McGaw Policies and housestaff resources including benefits, stipend, licenses and visa, and educational resources please visit:

<http://mcgaw.northwestern.edu/benefits-resources/index.html>